



Environmental Bulletin

Volume 9, Number 18
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from the Savannah River Site

ROD Issued for Motor Shops Seepage Basin and Fire Department Facility

The Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected the remedial approach for Savannah River Site's (SRS) Motor Shops Seepage Basin, and Fire Department Hose Training Facility operable units. The remedial decision is documented in the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD includes a responsiveness summary which addresses any public comments made during the previously held public comment period. The DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have determined that remedial action is necessary for these units. The preferred remedial actions are:

(1) No Action – for the Motor Shops Seepage Basin. A No Action is the appropriate remedy and a five year ROD

review will not be required. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has modified the SRS Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit to incorporate the No Action remedy.

(2) No Action – for the Fire Department Hose Training Facility (FDHTF). A No Action is the appropriate remedy. The previous soil removal activities conducted outside of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) at the FDHTF have eliminated the need to perform additional remedial action. Other remedial alternatives for this unit were not considered because the Baseline Risk Assessment (BRA) showed that all of the constituents of concern (COC) were eliminated because the risks indicated for the site were not attributed to activities performed at the FDHTF.

The remedial actions are intended to be permanent and effective in both the long and near terms.

The Record of Decision for the Savannah River Site's (SRS) Motor Shops Seepage Basin, and Fire Department Hose Training Facility operable units are available at these locations:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC;
- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA. For additional information, contact Jim Moore at the address listed below.

Jim Moore

Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Building 742A Rm: 182
Aiken, SC 29808

(803) 725-5663 or 1-800-249-8155

Completion of LLRWDF Cap on Schedule for December

The subcontractor at the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility (LLRWDF) installed the anchor trench at engineered low-level trench #4 of E Area. The anchor trench secures the geosynthetic capping material as a precaution against movement of the cap. Work crews also performed a variety of other jobs at LLRWDF such as backfilling piping and blocking up manholes in E Area. In B Area, crews are conducting grading and contouring along the access road near engineered low-level trench #2. In C Area, crews continued repairs to the foundation layer of the geogrid and prepared the area for installation of pre-cast channel. At this point, approximately 90% of the cap is finished, and the project remains on schedule for cap completion in December.



Workers survey anchor trench at engineered low-level trench #4.

Fact sheet issued for L-Area

The Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected the final remedial action(s) for Savannah River Site's L-Area Acid/Caustic Basin (LAACB) and the L-Area Oil/Chemical Basin (LAOCB). The remedial action(s) as selected in the Record of Decision is summarized in a Fact Sheet which also includes a brief operational history of the units, a description of the nature and extent of contamination and their locations. The DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the final remedy outlined in the Fact Sheet is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The remedial action(s) selected in the Record of Decision are as follows:

(1) L-Area Acid /Caustic Basin (LAACB) - since it was determined that LAACB poses no unacceptable threat to human health or the environment, the remedial action selected No Action. However, the Acid/Caustic Basin will be backfilled with native soil as a safety and maintenance measure.

(2) L-Area Oil/Chemical Basin (LAOCB) - the remedial action for the LAOCB, as stated in the Fact Sheet, is stabilization in place by grouting and the placement of a low permeability soil cover over the grouted basin. Institutional controls will also be implemented and maintained as long as the waste remains a threat to human health or the environment. The remedial action(s) is intended to be permanent and effective in both the long and near terms.

DOE-SR to prepare EIS

The DOE Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR) has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement before closing additional high-level waste tanks at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The decision to conduct an EIS stems from a desire to share with SRS stakeholders information from across the DOE complex on the tank closure process and lessons learned from the initial tank closures at SRS.

SRS closed the first two high-level waste tanks in the DOE complex in 1997 with the support of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. The DOE Closure Plan and a draft EA were the subject of a public meeting in 1996. Environmental impact information on the closures was compiled in an Environmental Assessment (EA) that addressed the impacts of using the preferred alternative of filling tanks with grout to stabilize residual waste and prevent tanks from collapsing and creating a hazard. The EA was made available for public comment.

DOE will publish a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register. Publication will begin the EIS scoping period, which will extend through late January, 1999. A scoping meeting for DOE to accept comments on the content and issues to be addressed in the EIS is planned for January 1999. A final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) is planned for late 1999. The schedule of the EIS will fully support the Federal Facilities Agreement commitment to close another waste tank by 2003. Bulk waste removal operations will continue throughout the EIS process, although closure will not take place until the ROD is issued. For more information, please call the NEPA toll free-line at 1-800-881-7292.

for more information...

The Fact Sheet for the Savannah River Site's (SRS) L-Area Acid/Caustic Basin and the L-Area Oil/Chemical Basin operable units are available at the repositories listed on page 2. The Fact Sheet is also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under "Happening Now", (<http://www.srs.gov>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, (<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/enviro-rest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>).

The Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan for the Ford Building Waste Unit (643-11G) Operable Unit (U) is also available on the Internet at the SRS Home Page (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page under "Public Involvement," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>).

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modifications are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Phone: (803) 896-4000
SCDHEC
Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort St., NE
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-7670

Additional contact:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
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Aiken, S.C. 29808
(800) 249-8155
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INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

* DOE Public Reading Room, Gregg-Graniteville Library, USC-Aiken, Aiken, S.C. * Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department, USC-Columbia, Columbia, S.C. * Reese Library, Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga. * Asa H. Gordon Library, Savannah State University, Savannah, Ga.

INTERNET ACCESS

SRS Home Page, <http://www.srs.gov>

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

- **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)**, The final EIS was issued on August 28, 1998 (63FR46006). The ROD is expected to be issued in November 1998.
- **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The final EIS has been delayed until after the Secretary's down select decision on tritium production, expected in December 1998.
- **Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)**, The final EIS has been delayed until after the Secretary's down select decision on tritium production, expected in December 1998.
- **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**, Multiple RODs will be issued. Planned RODs are HLW storage, fall 1998, LLW/LLMW, end of 1998.
- **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, The draft EIS is projected to be issued in November 1998.
- **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, Public comments are being addressed and the final EIS is being prepared. The expected issued date for the final EIS is January 1999.
- **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, The public comment period was extended to accommodate the receipt of S.C. and local stakeholder comments. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected in November 1998.
- **A-01 Outfall Constructed Wetland Project (DOE/EA-1246)**, The final EA was approved and a FONSI was signed on October 7, 1998.

EA -- Environmental Assessment
 EIS -- Environmental Impact Statement
 FONSI -- Finding of No Significant Impact
 ROD -- Record of Decision

Ford Building Waste Unit (643-11G) Operable Unit Proposed Plan released

The US Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/ Proposed Plan proposing no further action for the Ford Building Waste Unit (643-11G) Operable Unit (U) at the Savannah River Site (SRS) on November 18, 1998. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for this unit. The plan and draft permit modification will be available for public review and copying. The public comment period is scheduled for November 18, 1998, to January 1, 1999.

US DOE, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the (SCDHEC) are recommending the following for the Ford Building Waste Unit (FBWU):

(1) Proceed with a "No Further Action" Statement of Basis/Purposed Plan for the FBWU without the need for a Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study.

Operations with regulated radioactive equipment may have been staged at the FBWU (WSRC, 1998). The nearby Ford Building was used for the reconfiguration and repair of reactor heat exchangers and other process equipment that had been decontaminated prior to receipt at the facility. There are no records of waste disposal for the FBWU. However, in the past, objects identified on the surface of the waste unit included shoe covers, step-off pads, coveralls, and rubber gloves. These are typical wastes from work performed in radiological controlled areas. In addition, two signs marked the site: one read "Clean Pans Only", and the

other is a sign typically used to designate a radiologically controlled area. These signs and materials indicate that regulated work may have been performed at this location. All surface debris was removed from the unit in an undocumented removal sometime prior to 1992. A time-critical soil removal action was implemented in early 1997 to address secondary sources of contamination. The removal action focused on removing secondary sources consisting of surface and subsurface soil. A RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation (RFI/RI) with BRA was performed to assess the potential for adverse effects associated with exposure to constituents present at the FBWU.

The investigation adequately characterized the levels of contamination at the unit. There were no exceedences of Applicable, or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs). The groundwater migration pathway evaluation determined that leaching does not represent a current or future risk to groundwater. No ecological preliminary constituents of concern (COCs) were identified. Two human health preliminary COCs (beryllium and cesium-137) were identified as secondary COCs. Cesium-137 was identified as a secondary carcinogenic COC in surface soil under future land use for the resident (external radiation exposure route) and for the on-unit industrial worker (external radiation exposure). Beryllium was identified as a secondary carcinogenic COC in subsurface soil under future land use for

the resident (dermal contact and ingestion routes). However, these constituents were eliminated as final COCs through the uncertainty analysis process, primarily because the risks from the unit are indistinguishable from background risks. No Remedial Goal Options were developed because there are no final COCs.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/ Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by January 1, 1999. All comments received will be considered and addressed in a responsiveness summary that will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit decision, and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan will be available in the administrative record beginning November 15, from the Information Repositories listed on page 2.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/ Proposed Plan and requests for public meetings may be sent to Jim Moore.

Comments on the Draft RCRA Permit Modification and requests for public hearings on the Draft RCRA Permit Modification must be sent to:

SCDHEC

Attn: John T. Litton, P.E., Director
 Division of Hazardous and Infectious
 Waste Mgt.

Bureau of Land and Waste Management
 2600 Bull Street
 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 896-4000

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For more information on this or other cleanup
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